

instrument with which to search for the location of faults, for the starting point of abnormalities cannot be found by unassisted ocular inspection.

3. Before any psychic connection can be traced to peculiarities of brain structure, very much more than a mere outline of the supposed character of the individual must accompany the investigator's record. Heredity, disease, accidents, associations, incentives and, what is seldom if ever known, the inner life of the man, have their share of influence.

The bare record of which Benedikt speaks as pertaining to each case, so far from having no significance might become the most valuable part, if it only went far enough, *i. e.*, microscopically. Had we several thousand such bare records made by conscientious, able students, we might possibly begin to tabulate the most astounding results.

Notwithstanding the negative outcome of such work thus far, as the author says, "it will live" and help to guide other researches, and however labyrinthine an anatomico-psychological study may appear to be, when we compare it with other sciences and the advances they have made toward perfection against opposition of the fiercest kind, we may take encouragement, and such memoirs as the one before us are at least suggestive, even though they do not add to our stores of positive knowledge.

S. V. C.

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### SHORTER NOTICES.

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- I. **ATLAS OF SKIN DISEASES.** By Louis A. Duhring, M. D. Part VI. Philadelphia, 1879. J. B. Lippincott & Co. Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- II. **A CLINICAL TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.** By M. Rosenthal. (With a preface by Prof. Charcot.) Translated from the author's revised and enlarged edition, by L. Putzel, M. D. New York, Wm. Wood & Co., 1879; 555 pages. Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- III. **LECTURES ON ELECTRICITY IN ITS RELATIONS TO MEDICINE AND SURGERY.** By A. D. Rockwell, A. M., M. D. New York, Wm. Wood & Co., 1879. Chicago, W. T. Keener.
- IV. **FIRST LINES IN THERAPEUTICS, as Based on the Modes and the Processes of Healing, as Occurring Spontaneously in Disease, and on the Modes and Processes of Dying, as resulting naturally from disease. In a series of lectures.** By Alex. Harvey, M. A., M. D. (Edin.) New York, 1879, D. Appleton & Co. Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co.

VIII. The fact shown by statistics that in this, as well as in other northern countries, consumption is the most fatal of diseases, and the other idea argued out by this little volume, that it can to a great extent be prevented, are an ample excuse for its publication. We can best give the author's ideas by quoting his general conclusion. He says: "In summing up the considerations in the preceding pages, I think it appears conclusive that consumption, or the tendency to it which exists in many individuals, is essentially a premature dissipation of the force and matter of the body, and that improper food, bad air, deprivation of sunlight, poor clothing, want of physical exercise, disease, imperfect digestion, all accelerate this process of waste. Therefore in all our efforts at prevention the path of duty lies straight before us, and consists in conserving these two elements of the body by laying a good foundation in infancy, by preserving the organs of digestion, by eating an abundance of rich and nutritious food, such as fat, butter, meat, milk, eggs, etc., by breathing pure air, by living on dry soil, by wearing warm and comfortable clothing, by taking plenty of physical exercise, and by avoiding disease and injurious occupations."

The work is intended for the lay public, as will be seen by the above quotations, and ought to be very useful if it can induce healthier modes of living in those for whom it is intended.

IX. This is much like the preceding, a little popular handbook of special hygiene. Instead, however, of treating of a single important disease, it covers briefly, yet usefully, a very extensive field. As an exceedingly brief manual of hygiene of the skin, it is well adapted to be put in the hands of every one, and nearly every one of the laity could profit by its perusal. The remarks on arnica and some other popular applications are good, and we only wish that various other remedies and nostrums extensively advertised and employed in this country had also been mentioned.

X. A work like this has long been a desideratum. The variance between the technical medical language of the Germans and that of the French and English is extreme, and this fact, with the German practice of compounding words, renders their medical treatises often almost unintelligible to the American reader with only an ordinary school knowledge of German. On examination, such as we have been able to give it, this work seems quite full and complete, though, from the nature of the German language with its agglutinative character, it is impossible that it should be absolutely so. The volume will be almost indispensable to the student of German medical literature. This class ought to be large enough to make the publication exceedingly profitable.